PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE In re application of

Roberto VILLA et al.

Box Non-fee Amendment

Serial No. (unknown)

GROUP

Filed herewith

Examiner

HKD 5-8-02

MESALAZINE CONTROLLED RELEASE ORAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 6 and 8-11 as follows:

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--3. (Amended) Compositions as claimed in claim 1, wherein 5-aminosalicylic acid is inglobated in the molten lipophilic matrix by kneading, extrusion and/or granulation.

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6.(Amended) Compositions as claimed in claim 1, comprising a gastro-resistant outer coating.

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8.(Amended) Compositions as claimed in claim 1, in the form of tablets, capsules, minitablets, wherein the active ingredient is completely contained inside the lipophilic matrix.